



BLM - Elko, NV  
Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DNA

<b><i>Proposed Action Project Title/Type</i></b> NV Energy – RTI Electric Service, NVN-5421 Amendment	
<b><i>Originating Office:</i></b> Tuscarora Field Office	<b><i>Requested Priority:</i></b>
<b><i>Authorizing Office:</i></b> Tuscarora Field Office	<b><i>Priority Assigned:</i></b>
<b><i>NEPA # (Assigned in ePlanning):</i></b> - DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2015-0006 -DNA	
<b><i>Case File No.:</i></b> NVN-5421	<b><i>Date:</i></b> 10/9/2014
<b><i>Type of Action (Subject Code):</i></b> 2800	<b><i>Applicant/Cooperator (if any):</i></b> NV Energy
<b><i>County, General Location, UTM, or Legal Description:</i></b> The project site is approximately 1 mile southeast of the community of Tuscarora in Elko County, Nevada in the SE1/4 of Section 2 Township 39 North (T39N), Range 51 East (R51E) of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The project site is accessible from Midas Road/County Road 723 (See Project Maps).	
<b><i>A. NEPA Geodatabase Information Submitted to GIS:</i></b> <i>ePath:</i>	
<b><i>B. Description of Proposed Action</i></b> The project will consist of constructing and undergrounding approximately 30 feet of 25 kV distribution line. NV Energy is requesting a 10 foot wide by 30 feet long right-of-way (ROW). The proposed project is required in order to provide electric service to Rural Telephone Company's telecommunications fiber optic line that was installed during the summer/fall of 2013. The project will include the placement of 1 -3 inch conduit, the installation of 1-25kV transformer on an existing power pole, service riser material on an existing power pole, and a 1-100 amp panel. The underground cable will be housed in the 3 inch conduit. The conduit is installed in an underground trench (3ft wide by 5ft deep) which is then backfilled with soils that meet prescribed thermal properties. The top of the trench section would be restored to pre-existing conditions, either pavement or native vegetation.	

**C. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name/Date Approved: (list applicable LUPs (e.g., resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto).

☒ Elko Resource Area Resource Management Plan, 1986  
Elko Resource Area Resource Management Plan Record of Decision, 1987

☐ Wells Resource Area Resource Management Plan, 1983  
Wells Resource Area Resource Management Plan Record of Decision, 1985

Other Document/Date Approved Click here to enter text.

Other Document/Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

**OR**

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

**The Elko Resource Management Plan, as approved March 11, 1987, is silent on the Proposed Action. However, it is consistent with the objectives for the management of lands, right-of-way corridors, access, recreation, livestock management, wildlife, and minerals as prescribed and identified in the Record of Decision of the Resource Management Plan (BLM 1987, p.1-4).**

*Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.*

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2011-0501-EA Telecommunications Fiber Optic Lines: Tuscarora to Lone Mountain Station & Dinner Station to Adobe Ranchos, January 2012.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

**Yes, the proposed action would be a feature of Rural Telephone Company's buried telecommunications fiber optic line which was analyzed in Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2011-0501-EA (2012). A short, 30-foot-long segment of buried distribution line would provide power to RTC's buried telecommunications fiber optic line by installing a 1-25kV transformer and service riser material on an existing power pole, a 1-100amp panel, and placement of a 1-3 inch conduit that will house the underground transmission cable. Of the 30 feet ROW being requested 10 feet are within the area analyzed in Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2011-0501-EA (2012). The remaining 20 feet are outside of RTC's existing ROW. However the project area geographic and resource conditions are sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.**

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

**Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed is still appropriate; however the sensitive species Sage-grouse is still a concern in this area. Even though the proposed action will be within an already disturbed area, our guidance is to work directly with NDOW for all ground disturbing projects. We will be using stipulations in the right-of-way grant to mitigate impacts to Sage-grouse.**

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

**Resource conditions addressed in the Telecommunications Fiber Optic Lines: Tuscarora to Lone Mountain Station & Dinner Station to Adobe Ranchos Environmental Assessment have not changed substantially since publication in 2012. There has been a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) review regarding the status of the greater sage grouse and a BLM policy change regarding management of sage grouse. The Telecommunications Fiber Optic Lines EA analysis of potential impacts of construction within sage grouse habitat includes all aspects of the proposed action and is adequate for purposes of the current proposed action.**

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

**Yes, the proposed action will have a temporary disturbance area of 300sq feet and given that the cable will be buried it will have no permanent disturbance. The temporary disturbance for the proposed action will be entirely within existing disturbance.**

5. Are public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

*Documentation of answer and explanation:*

**Yes, the required public involvement done during the NEPA process in the above mentioned EA is adequate for the current proposed action.**

***D. Persons/Agencies, BLM Staff Consulted***

*Enter Specialist Name, Title, Resource and secure their initials*

Name	Title	Representing	Initials
Lucinda Langston	Archaeologist	BLM	LL 11/6/14
Ken Wilkenson	Wildlife Biologist	BLM	KW 11/6/14

**Note:** Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

**Preparer:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Project Lead - /s/ Elisabeth Puentes**

**Date:**

11/6/2014

**NEPA Compliance Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NEPA Coordinator – /s/ Terri Dobis**

**Date**

11/6/2014

### Conclusion

☒ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

(Use surname or initials for documents placed on web)

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Responsible Official: /s/ Richard Adams

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
11/24/2014

Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Lead: \_\_\_\_\_

BLM - NEVADA - Elko District Office  
 INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SCOPING RECORD

File Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Resources Considered						
ELEMENT/ RESOURCE	Appropriate Specialist	Not Present	Present/ Not Affected	Present and Affected	BLM Guidance	Initials/Date
<b>Human Concerns</b>						
Air Quality					MS 7300.40 CFR 93 subpart B	
Cultural Resources					MS 8100	
Environmental Justice					H-1601-1	
Human Health & Safety					MS 9011	
Native American Religious Concerns					MS 8100 H-8160-1	
<b>Wildlife/Animal Concerns</b>						
Migratory Birds					50 CFR 10.17	
Threatened/Endangered Species					MS 6840	
<b>Other Concerns</b>						
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)					MS 1613	
Farm Land -Prime/Unique					7 CFR 658.4	
Floodplains					MS 7260	
Forests and Rangelands (HFRA)					HFRA 2003	
Non-Native and Noxious Species					MS 9015 517 DM1	
Wastes, Hazardous/Solid					MS 9180, MS 9183	
Water Quality					MS 7420, MS 9184	
Wetlands, Riparian Zones					MS 6740	
Wild & Scenic Rivers					MS 8014	
Wilderness					43 CFR 6300, H-8550-1, MS 8560	
<b>Human Concerns</b>						
Access						
Engineering						
Fire Management						
Mining/Minerals						
Realty - Land Use						
Recreation						
Social or Economic						
Visual Resources						
<b>Wildlife/Animal Concerns</b>						
Aquatic species						
Livestock Grazing						
Sensitive Species						
Wildlife						
Wild Horses						
<b>Other Concerns</b>						
Climate Change (GHG's, Wildfire, Disease, etc.)						
Energy (Gas, Oil, Wind)						
Soils						

[1] See Statute: NV-2009-030, BLM Manual, regulation or order that may require an element be addressed in a NV BLM EA or EIS.